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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 10, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 5 totaled an estimated 17.1 billion ton-miles, 10.2 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 49 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 869.7 billion ton-miles, 0.2 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 5 totaled 396,173 cars, 11.5 percent below 1980, but 19.0 percent higher than the preceding Thanksgiving Day week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.3 percent in the East, 8.7 percent in the South, and 14.0 percent in the West.

Nineteen of the 21 commodity groups were down compared with the corresponding week a year ago, although coal loadings were up 7,839 cars, or 6.9 percent. All of the 21 groups increased from the preceding holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the holiday week ended November 28 totaled 27,998 cars, up 4.8 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 50,969 trailers and/or containers, up 6.8 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of the year was 1,580,862 cars, 2.6 percent higher than last year, and 2,871,712 trailers and/or containers, 2.7 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/5/81:

	Loadings in Week ended December 5, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,231	D	7,419	22.7	I	3,509	16.2
Other farm products	5,344	D	941	15.0	I	98	1.9
Metallic ores	26,075	D	6,881	20.9	I	7,443	39.9
Coal	121,701	I	7,839	6.9	I	15,761	14.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,981	D	2,375	19.2	I	2,474	33.0
Nonmetallic minerals	10,941	D	2,404	18.0	I	3,766	52.5
Grain mill products	12,456	D	4,081	24.7	I	1,353	12.2
Food and kindred products	14,449	D	2,425	14.4	I	1,885	15.0
Primary forest products	17,773	D	2,335	11.6	I	5,106	40.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,853	D	2,311	28.3	I	1,335	29.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	18,642	D	2,138	10.3	I	1,460	8.5
Chemicals and allied products	23,234	D	6,168	21.0	I	3,122	15.5
Petroleum products	5,240	D	558	9.6	I	799	18.0
Stone, clay and glass products	10,998	D	4,312	28.2	I	1,805	19.6
Coke	6,136	I	212	3.6	I	867	16.5
Metals and products	12,154	D	4,178	25.6	I	1,642	15.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	13,012	D	5,593	30.1	I	2,500	23.8
Waste and scrap materials	9,280	D	3,386	26.7	I	1,650	21.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,363	D	1,469	14.9	I	896	12.0
All other carloads	39,125	D	611	1.5	I	5,877	17.7
LCL traffic	185	D	64	25.7	I	23	14.2
Total Cars Loaded	396,173	D	51,598	11.5	I	63,371	19.0
Corresponding week of 1980	447,771						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (49 weeks)	20,570,017	21,406,539	D	3.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
48 Weeks cumulative	852.6	849.0	I	0.4
Week ended December 5	17.1	19.0	D	10.2
49 Weeks cumulative	869.7	868.0	I	0.2

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